

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/077,443

Examiner

Scott E. Jones

Applicant(s)

LOOSE ET AL.

Art Unit

3714

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the RCE filed 8/29/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3-9,51,52 and 54-56.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
- ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after allowance or after an Office action under *Ex Parte Quayle*, 25 USPQ 74, 453 O.G. 213 (Comm'r Pat. 1935). Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, prosecution in this application has been reopened pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114.

Applicant's submission filed on August 29, 2007 has been entered.

**REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

2. Claims 1, 3-9, 51-52, and 54-56 are allowed.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The closest prior art, Sines et al. (U.S. 5,934,672), discloses a slot machine having a plurality of optical fibers (52) arranged with image input ends (53) adjacent to an image source-the symbol bearing outer surface of reel (51). The image input ends (53) form an image collector which is shaped or otherwise configured to gather an image from the reel. The optical fibers form an image conveyance which transfers the image or images gathered from the reel, and conveys them to a viewable presentation. This is done at optical fiber display ends (54). The display ends (54) of the optical fibers are positioned so as to form an image emitter or image emitting array which is either directly visible or passed through one or more lenses or screens (55) in order to focus or otherwise enhance the image viewed by the player. See Fig. 8 and Column 8, lines 24-53.

Conversely, claims 1, 8, and 51 of the instant invention is directed to a slot machine having a plurality of optical fibers having first ends optically coupled to said surface of said image display device and second ends for displaying simulated mechanical reels, at least some of the second ends define a radius of curvature that approximates the radius of curvature of a mechanical reel. Sines

Art Unit: 3714

fails to disclose, teach, or fairly suggest this feature. This claimed feature enables the instant invention to provide a slot machine having increased versatility while having simulated reels that are displayed aesthetically similar to traditional mechanical slot reels.

***Oath/Declaration***

4. The Examiner objected to the oath because the oath did not recite the language "material to patentability." The Examiner reviewed 37 CFR 1.56 and noticed that both statements (Examiner's statement and Applicant's statement) are actually recited, although in different contexts. The Examiner contacted his immediate supervisor, Bob Pezzuto, and discussed the matter. As a result, the Examiner withdraws the objection to the oath. The Examiner thanks Applicant's representative for bringing this issue to the Examiner's attention.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Scott E. Jones whose telephone number is (571) 272-4438. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 8:30 A.M. - 5:00 P.M..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert E. Pezzuto can be reached on (571) 272-6996. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3714

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Scott E. Jones/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3714

SEJ